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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,805	09/16/2003	Shinichi Handa	DAIN : 753	1118
25944	7590	01/19/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			SANTIAGO, MARICELI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2879	

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MA

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/662,805	Applicant(s) HANDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Mariceli Santiago	Art Unit 2879	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The Amendment, filed on November 18, 2005, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the instant application.

Claims 6-17 are withdrawn from further consideration as drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the Response filed June 3, 2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (US 5,482,896) in view of Cloots et al. (EP 1013413 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Tang discloses a method of manufacturing a light emitting display panel, comprising laminating at least a flexible base layer (101), a first electrode layer (104), an EL layer (206), a second electrode layer (207) and a flexible sealing layer (208) in order, wherein the flexible base layer is attached to a rigid flat plate (102) during lamination of one or more of the first electrode layer, the EL layer, the second electrode layer and the flexible sealing layer to the flexible base layer, and the flexible base layer is removed from the rigid flat plate prior to completion of the method (Fig. 10, the sealant material 113 is introduced into the space

between the ultra thin substrate 101 and the permanent support 110 to provide a moisture barrier and improve the mechanical strength of the structure, after the flexible base layer is removed from the rigid flat plate, to complete the light emitting display panel). Although Tang does not explicitly state that the base layer and the sealing layer are flexible, Tang exemplifies an ultra thin laminate comprising plastic material as a base layer and an indium-film sealing layer, and its suitability for use in curved assemblies (Column 5, lines 62-67), thus it is considered within Tang's teaching the disclosure of a flexible base layer and protective layer, due to their material and thicknesses in relation to the provisional rigid plate (102) and/or the permanent rigid substrate (110) disclosed. Tang fails to disclose the limitation of the flexible base layer comprises a thin glass sheet and a protective plastic sheet, and has sufficient flexibility to be freely rolled and/or curved. In the same field of endeavor, Cloots discloses a method of manufacturing a flexible substrate for light emitting display panels, comprising at least a laminate arrangement having a glass layer and a polymeric support layer (Paragraphs [0009-0013]) in order to provide a flexible substrate with having low specific weight and mechanical flexibility, and that can be wounded or curved as required. Thus, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skills in the art to incorporate the flexible substrate laminate disclosed by Cloots in the method of Tang in order to provide a flexible substrate with having low specific weight and mechanical flexibility, and that can be wounded or curved as required.

Regarding claim 2, Tang discloses a method wherein the EL layer is formed on the flexible substrate (208) while the flexible substrate is attached to the rigid flat plate (102).

Regarding claim 3, Tang-Cloots discloses a method wherein the flexible base layer is attached to rigid flat plate, however, Tang fails to disclose the limitation of the flexible base layer being attached to and removed from the rigid flat plate at least twice before the method is

complete. However, one skilled in the art would reasonably contemplate multiple stages of attaching and subsequent removal of the flexible substrate from the rigid plate as a matter of design engineering in order to accommodate for multiple and diverse coating and/or deposition techniques of the laminated layers used during the manufacturing stages. Furthermore, applicants claimed limitation of at least two attaching and removal stages does not solve any of the stated problems or yield any unexpected result that is not within the scope of the teaching applied. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Tang-Cloots by incorporating multiple attachment and removal stages in order to accommodate for the multiple and diverse coating and/or deposition techniques of the laminated layers used during the manufacturing stages.

Regarding claim 4, Tang discloses a method wherein the flexible base layer is attached to the rigid flat plate by at least one method selected from the group consisting of a detachable sealing attachment, a bond attachment and an adhesive attachment (103, Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Tang discloses a method wherein the rigid flat plate is a glass substrate (Column 3, lines 37-39).

Regarding claim 18, Tang discloses a method wherein the laminated structure comprises an insulating layer (205) that insulates the first electrode layer (104) and the second electrode layer (207) from each other, and the insulating layer is formed in a predetermined pattern.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In regards to applicant's contention that the applied reference to Tang fails provide a teaching or suggestion requiring a flexible base layer as claimed, since the EL device disclosed in Tang is used in an application where flexibility would not be necessary, i.e., an LED array in a printer, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Tang further discloses,

"Although the rigid temporary and permanent supports 102 and 110, respectively, have been represented in the drawings as flat, they can also be curved. An appropriately curved surface may be advantageous for paper transport in contact printing."

Accordingly, it is considered that Tang does teach or suggest the desirability of at least having a flexible base layer, more preferably the entire laminate, in order to conform the laminate with the curved profile of the permanent rigid substrate as disclosed.

For the reasons given above the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8 are deemed proper.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

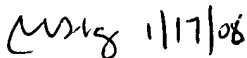
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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mariceli Santiago whose telephone number is (571) 272-2464. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Mariceli Santiago
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879